

## **6.11 Visual Resources**

### **6.11.1 Introduction**

Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) proposes to build and operate a nominal 96-megawatt (MW) simple-cycle power plant on a 12-acre fenced site within the City of Riverside, California. This proposed facility is referred to as the Riverside Energy Resource Center (RERC) Project (Project). RPU will develop, build, own and operate the facility. RERC will supply the internal needs of the City of Riverside during summer peak electrical demands and will serve the City's minimum emergency loads in the event RPU is islanded from the external transmission system. No power from RERC will be exported outside of the city.

Section 6.11 evaluates potential visual resource impacts of the Riverside Energy Resource Center (RERC) Project (Project), and the consistency of the Project with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations and standards (LORS), in conformance with applicable guidelines of the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

#### **6.11.1.1 Project Description**

The proposed site is owned by the City of Riverside and is located adjacent to the City of Riverside's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in a light industrial/manufacturing area. The RERC will consist of two aero-derivative combustion turbine generators with SCRs, an on-site substation, approximately 1.75 miles of 69kV transmission line, natural gas and water supply interconnection, and on-site administration building and warehouse. The power plant and associated administration building and warehouse will occupy approximately 8 of 12 acres with the additional 4 acres reserved for equipment storage and construction parking. The entire plant perimeter will be fenced with a combination of chain-link fencing and architectural block walls.

### **6.11.2 Laws, Ordinances, Regulations and Standards**

#### **6.11.2.1 Federal**

No Federal LORS relating to visual resources apply to the proposed Project.

#### **6.11.2.2 State**

##### **Scenic Highway Program**

No eligible or designated state scenic highways are located within the viewshed of the proposed Project.

##### **California Environmental Quality Act**

The CEQA guidelines define "significant" effect on the environment to mean a "substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including.... objects of historic or aesthetic significance." (Cal. Code Regs, Tit. 14 §15382)

Under the CEQA Guidelines, significant visual impacts may result from:

- a. A substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.
- b. Substantial damage to scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.
- c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.
- d. A new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

### ***6.11.2.3 Local***

#### **City of Riverside General Plan**

The Project Site and the area where the planned transmission line connection to the existing Mt. View substation are located in the Manufacturing Park (MP) zone at the generation-site and both MP and single-family residential along the transmission line route, see Land Use Section 6.2.

#### **Riverside County**

The lands immediately adjacent to the Project site are also included within two “policy areas” of the Jurupa Area Land Use Plan. Policy areas are portions of an area plan that contain special or unique characteristics that merit detailed attention and focused policies. The two policy areas are the Santa Ana River Corridor and the Riverside Municipal Airport Influence Area. The Project site and transmission line would be located south of the Santa Ana River corridor designated in the 2003 Riverside County General Plan. The following policies are relevant to the Santa Ana River Corridor:

- JURAP 7.2     Require development, where allowable, to be set back an appropriate distance from the top of bluffs, in order to protect the natural and recreational values of the river and to avoid public responsibility for property damage that could result from soil erosion or future floods.
- JURAP 7.3     Encourage future development that borders the Policy Area to design for common access and views to and from the Santa Ana River.
- JURAP 7.13    Discourage utility lines within the river corridor. If approved, lines shall be placed underground where feasible and shall be located in a manner to harmonize with the natural environment and amenity of the river.

### **6.11.3 Setting**

#### ***6.11.3.2 Project Viewshed***

The viewshed is the surface area visible from a given viewpoint or series of viewpoints. It is the area from which a viewpoint or series of viewpoints is visible. The Project's potential viewshed has been estimated as an aid in identifying the views that could be affected by implementing the Project.

The boundaries of the area of potential visibility around a project are considered to be about 3 miles from it. This is because elements of a view that are 3 miles or more away are considered to be a part of the background, the landscape zone in which little color or texture is apparent, colors blur into values of blue or gray, and individual visual impacts become least apparent (USDA, 1973). A potential viewshed with a 3-mile radius is a conservative approach because it does not take into account land use activities such as buildings or existing vegetation that may obscure a view; thus, it overstates project visibility. For the Project, a viewshed with less than a 1-mile radius is appropriate due to the developed nature of the area. Figure 6.11-1 Key Map at the end of this section shows areas within the 1-mile boundary that are expected to have unobstructed views of the Project and areas that are expected to have partially or fully obstructed views of the Project site.

As shown in Figure 6.11-2, intermittent and/or partially obstructed views of the Project site and vicinity may occur along Jurupa Ave and along Van Buren Boulevard. These views depict an industrialized setting (e.g., water tanks, warehouses, wastewater treatment facilities and other industrial buildings).

### ***6.11.3.3 Visual Character of Regional Landscape, Project Site and Vicinity***

Our understanding of the visual environment is based on the visual character of objects in the environment and the relationships between those objects. Two attributes comprise visual character: pattern elements and pattern character.

Pattern elements include the form, line, color and texture of an object. The form is the visual mass, bulk, or shape of the object. The edges of objects or parts introduce the line objects. The color of an object is its reflective brightness (light or dark) and its hue (red, blue, or yellow). Texture is the surface coarseness of the object. Awareness of this pattern of elements decreases with distance from a seen object.

The visual contrast of an environment can be traced to its components of pattern character: dominance, scale, diversity and continuity. Elements in a landscape may be visually dominant because of position, extent, or contrast of basic pattern elements. Scale is the size relationship between a landscape element and its surroundings. Visual diversity is the number, variety and intermixing of visual pattern elements. Continuity is the uninterrupted flow of pattern elements of a landscape and the maintenance of the visual relationship between connected or related landscape components.

The primary forms in the Project vicinity are: the industrial buildings and facilities located to the north, west and south of the Project site; the residential structures to the west; the municipal airport to the southwest; the wastewater treatment facility to the west; the nearby transmission line poles (including those that would be upgraded as part of the Project); and the road network to the west and south of the site. To the north and east of the Project site, the primary forms are the trees, river and riparian area. These features provide a variety of angled, vertical and horizontal lines as well as form, color and texture variety.

The variety in colors in the Project vicinity is demonstrated by the green hues at the undeveloped Project site, the tree and the riparian area to the north; the nearby industrial

buildings; and the brightness provided by the reflection of the sun off the buildings. Texture is provided by the grass and bare soil at the Project site.

The dominant feature near the Project site is the City of Riverside Wastewater Treatment Plant. This feature immediately adjacent the Project site is the largest landscape element in terms of scale. Other urban development near the Project site is typical of an urban environment. North of the site, the dominant visual feature is the Santa Ana River and its riparian corridor.

Visual diversity is provided in the area by the mixture of the natural and human-made environment, and the variety of form, line, color and texture provided by the ground surface and vegetation.

Continuity is demonstrated by the inter-relatedness of the forms in the landscape, (i.e., the concentration of industrial development within the immediate area to the north and west, and the residential development to the distant north and west). It is also exhibited by strong lines provided by the natural and human-made structures in the area: the combination of colors; and the textures provided by nearby areas with a natural appearance.

#### ***6.11.3.4 Visual Resources***

The visual resource inventory categories are landforms, types of water bodies, vegetation communities, land use and the types of urban development present. The City of Riverside is located in southern California within the Inland Empire region, an area that has been converted to a combination of uses that includes urban, agriculture and open space uses. Other uses include the system of aqueducts, freeways/highways and railroads within the region. Cities occur along the freeways within the region, and beyond these urbanizing areas, agricultural areas and open spaces exist.

State Routes 60 and 91, and Intrastate Highway 215 cross the City of Riverside. The urbanized area consists of residential, commercial and industrial land uses. Limited agricultural areas surround portions of the city with the Santa Ana River forming its northern boundary and Estelle Mountain Reserve forming the southern boundary. The landscape in the immediate vicinity of the City contains periodic rolling hills and foothills. The City's landscape exhibits the urban character of a medium sized city (population 255,166 Riverside, 2004) that has retained its own identity and uniqueness in comparison to the surrounding region.

The RERC Project site is located in the northwest portion of the City. To the east of the Project site is vacant undeveloped land that is designated for industrial uses according to the City's General Plan (City of Riverside, 1994). The City's wastewater treatment facility and its industrial facilities (i.e., existing cogeneration electrical generation station) in the Project vicinity emit water vapor plumes.

#### ***6.11.3.5 Visual Quality***

Aesthetics includes not only the character of the visual experience (pattern elements and pattern character) but also its quality. The enjoyment or interpretation of a landscape is subjective, yet there is public agreement that the visual resources of certain landscapes

have high visual quality. For example, high visual quality is recognized in both natural landscapes (such as the Grand Canyon) and urban landscapes (such as the San Francisco skyline). Therefore, the character of a landscape and its components may vary greatly, and both landscapes may be considered exceptional. A project in an area with high visual quality does not always have an adverse effect on the visual quality of that landscape.

Three criteria have been used to evaluate the visual quality of the Project site and vicinity: vividness, intactness and unity. None of these by itself is equivalent to visual quality; all three must rate high to indicate quality. Vividness is the memorability of contrasting landscape components as they combine in striking and distinctive visual patterns. Intactness is the visual integrity of the natural and human-made landscape and the degree to which the landscape is free from visual encroachment. Unity is the visual harmony of the landscape (compatibility of landscape elements) considered as a whole.

Vividness of the Project site and vicinity includes an assessment of the landforms, land cover and human-made development of the area. The vividness rating of the Project area and vicinity is considered low-to-moderate. Some landform relief exists to contribute to the memorability of the view. In addition, no natural water bodies are present at the Project site, and the water bodies immediately west of the site are wastewater treatment ponds. The Santa Ana River directly north of the site isn't visible due to terrain that obstructs its view. The urban development in the area contributes to the vividness of the view by the contrast it provides against the undeveloped Project site; however, neither the urban development nor the Project site is considered striking or distinctive. The tree and riparian areas to the north of the Project site contributes to the vividness of the view, but it is not the dominant feature in the area.

Intactness of the Project site and vicinity is seen within the concentration of industrial development near the site (on Jurupa Ave) and along Limonite Avenue located in the community of Pedley to the north of the site. The intactness is considered moderate because of the inter-relatedness of the urban landscape near the site.

There is minimal connection between the undeveloped Project site, riparian and river corridor area to the north and the urban facilities (industrial facilities, airport, railroads, pipelines, roadways and sub-transmission lines). Overall, the landscape elements of the Project site and vicinity have low visual unity.

The overall visual quality of the Project site and immediate vicinity (including the transmission line to be upgraded along Jurupa Avenue), when considered in its surrounding industrial context, is considered low.

#### ***6.11.3.6 Viewer Characteristics, Viewer Groups, Exposure and Sensitivity***

The quality of the visual experience depends on the visual resources and the viewer response to those resources. When characterizing viewers, the following must be considered: the type of viewer group; the viewer exposure (their location, number of people in group, and duration and frequency of their view); and viewer sensitivity (viewer activity, awareness and values). The viewer groups can be classified as three types:

- ♦ Residents living to the west in La Sierra Hills and in Pedley to the north of the Project site
- ♦ Recreationists visiting the Santa Ana River Trail to the north of the Project site
- ♦ Drivers and passengers (motorists) traveling in vehicles along Jurupa Avenue, Van Buren Blvd and Clay St

Photos demonstrating the views, landscape character and visual quality seen by the various viewer types (receptors) were taken during the site reconnaissance visit of December 2003. The locations where these photos were taken and the direction that the camera was focused are shown in Figure 6.11-1. These photos and their associated viewers and view locations are listed below:

- ♦ **Photo 1** shows the Project site view looking east from the nearest residential subdivision west of the site (Figure 6.11-2). The natural gas pipeline crossing structure and the MWD aqueduct are visible in the middle ground.
- ♦ **Photo 2** shows the recreationist view from the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (Figure 6.11-3a-g). The Union Pacific Railroad Bridge is shown crossing the trail in a. The MWD Upper Feeder Aqueduct is shown crossing the trail in b. A major natural gas pipeline is shown crossing the trail in c. A 69kV transmission line is shown crossing the trail in d. An industrial building sited at the edge of a bluff near the trail is shown in e. The view of the wastewater treatment facility viewed from the trail is shown in f. The unobstructed view from the trail of the Santa Ana River is shown in g.
- ♦ **Photo 3** shows the surrounding industrial looking visual character of the site (Figure 6.11-4a-b). A depression in topography shown looking down from the top of the generation facility site is shown in a. An industrial building on the north side of the Santa Ana River is shown as viewed from the Juan Bautista Trail in b.
- ♦ **Photo 4** shows the existing Mt. View Substation (Figure 6.11-5). Several existing transmission lines are visible within the immediate vicinity of the substation. Additionally, the residences' front yard views are oriented toward the Union Pacific Railroad shown in the far left portions of the photo.

**Residents' Existing Views.** Residents are considered a sensitive viewer group because of the long-term nature of the Project and the sensitivity with which people regard their places of residence. In addition, residents have frequent opportunities to experience the views from their homes, and view duration can be fleeting or lengthy (lasting hours). Residents along Bradford Street and Linares Avenue have views of varying landscapes and quality, depending on the direction they are facing. The quality of the view toward the Project site is considered low (Figure 6.11-9a). Sensitive residential viewers from approximately thirty residences are represented by this view, when the viewers are in their back yards and look over their fences.

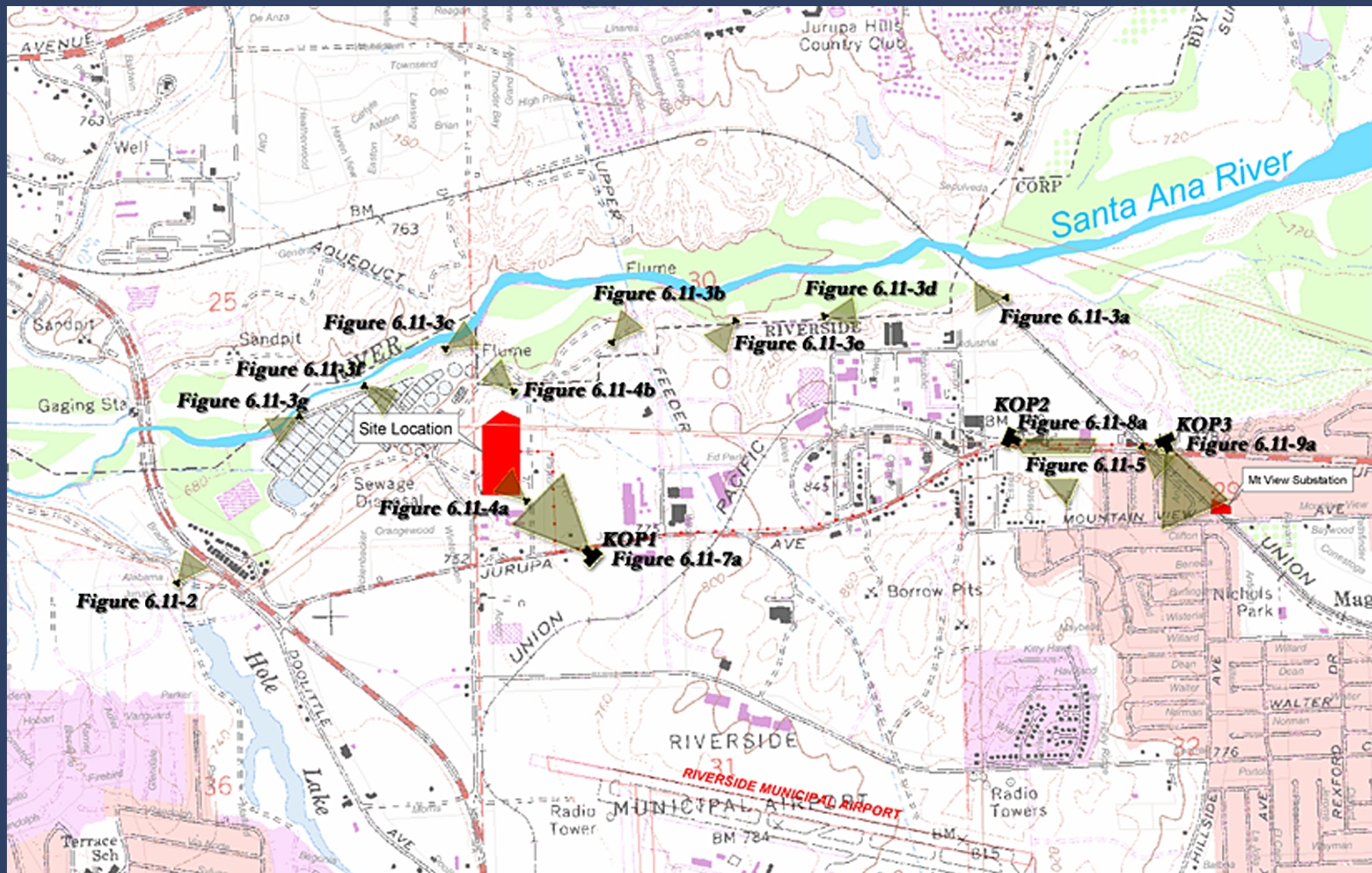
**Recreationists' Existing Views.** Recreationists are considered a sensitive viewer group because they generally value and are more aware of the aesthetic quality of their surroundings than commuters or people at work. This is because their focus is usually on their surroundings and recreational activities. In addition, the recreation activity they are

engaging in is usually enhanced by the surroundings. A recreationist view from the Santa Ana River Trail is shown in Figure 6.11-3a-g, and the quality of the view toward the Project site is considered low.

**Motorists Existing Views.** Drivers are considered to have lower viewer sensitivity because views from the roadway are short-term, are obstructed by their vehicle, and the drivers' attention is primarily concentrated on maneuvering the roadway. Although passengers have a longer view opportunity than drivers, they are also considered to have low sensitivity due to view obstructions caused by the vehicle, which shortens their view (Figure 6.11-7a and Figure 6.11-8a). Because of the industrial nature of the area resulting in it not being popular for scenic viewing, the few streets in Riverside and Pedley that provide direct views of the Project site, and the short duration of view, the motorists are not considered highly sensitive viewers. Instead, their viewer sensitivity is considered low in the vicinity of the Project area.







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**FIGURE 6.11-1  
CHARACTER PHOTO  
KOP LOCATION MAP**



**Figure 6.11-2**



**Figure 6.11-3A**



**Figure 6.11-3B**



**Figure 6.11-3C**



**Figure 6.11-3D**



**Figure 6.11-3E**





**Figure 6.11-3F**



**Figure 6.11-3G**



**Figure 6.11-4A**



**Figure 6.11-4B**



**Figure 6.11-5**







### **Existing Condition**

\*View looking North Northwest Approximately 275'  
 East of the Jurupa Avenue and Payton Avenue Intersection  
 \*Photo Date / Time: July 25, 2003 / Approximately 11:30am  
 \*Camera Height: Approx. 6'



### **Notes**

*Visual simulation shown is for demonstration purposes only.  
 Final design may change pending review.*



**Simulated Condition - Steel**  
 After Construction

**KOPI**  
 (Figure 6.11-7a)



### **Viewpoint Location Map**





### ***Existing Condition***

\*View looking East on Jurupa Ave. between  
Chester St. and Florence St.

\*Photo Date / Time: July 30, 2003 / Approximately 1:35pm

\*Camera Height: Approx. 6'



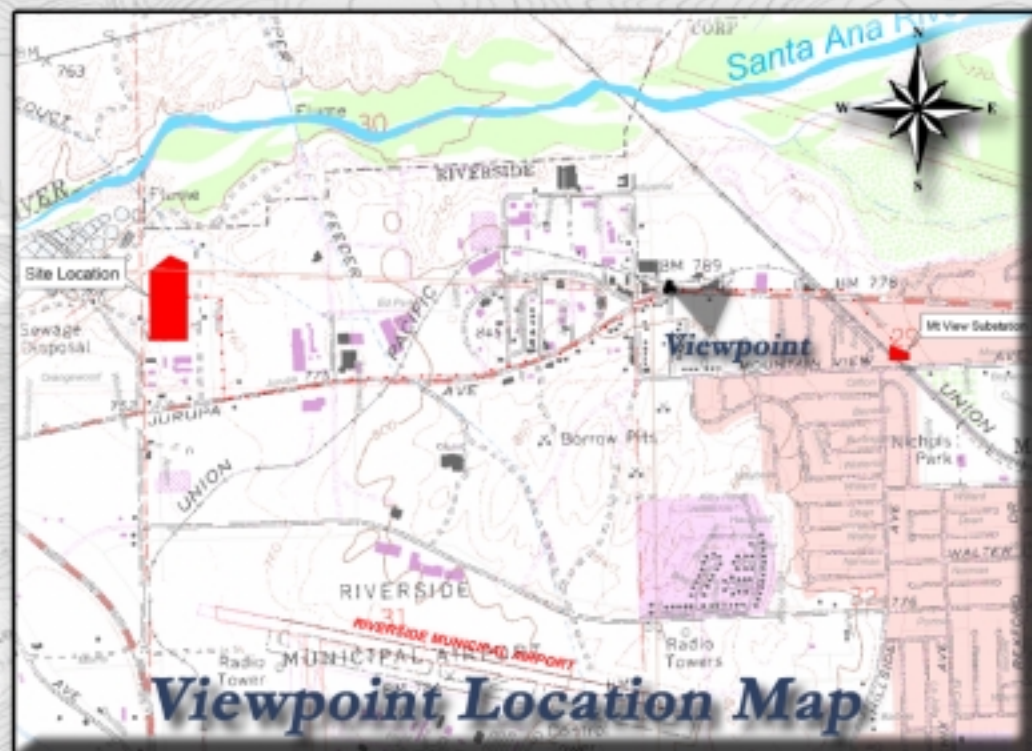
### ***Notes***

*Visual simulation shown is for  
demonstration purposes only.  
Final design may change pending  
review.*

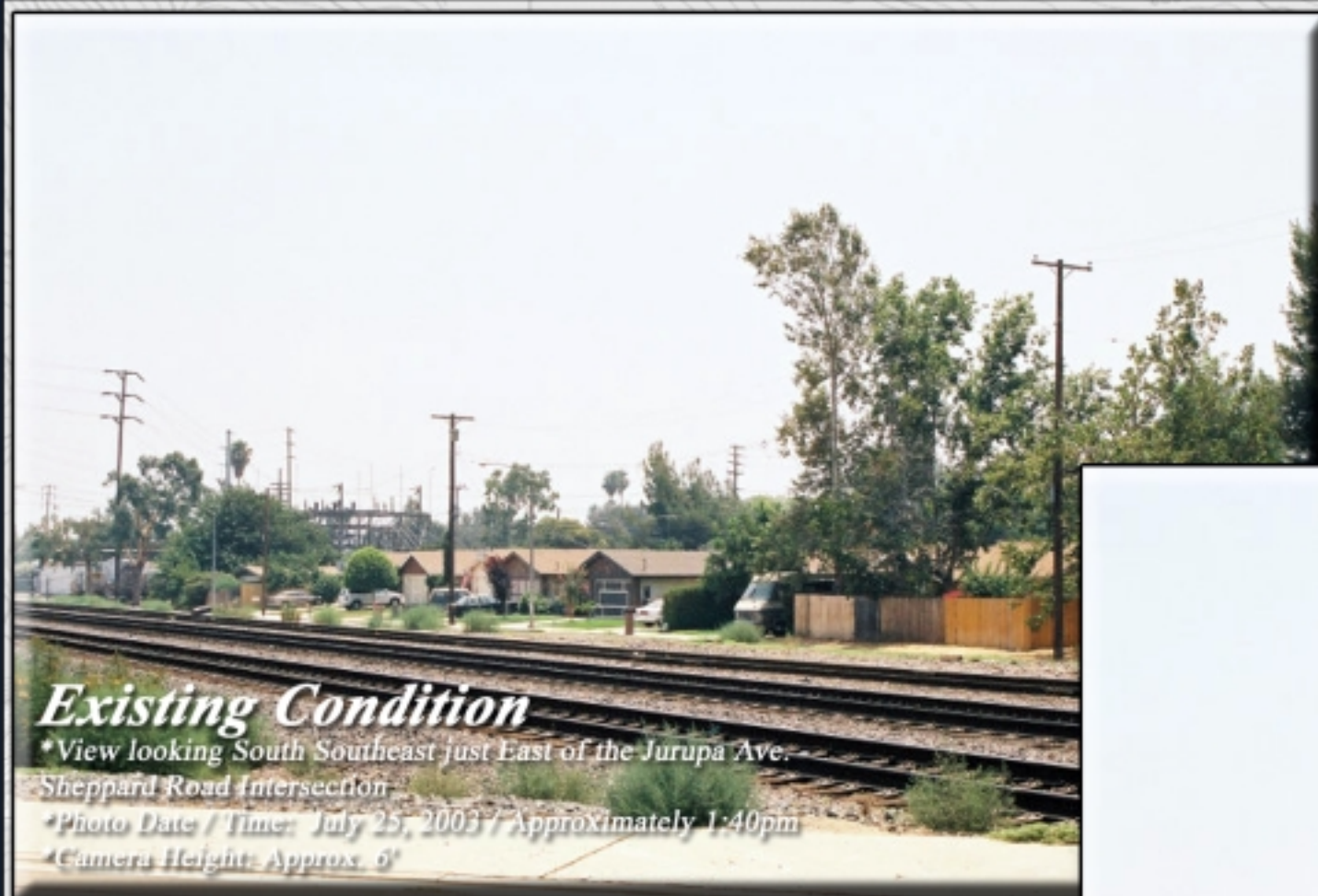


***Simulated Condition - Steel***  
*After Construction*

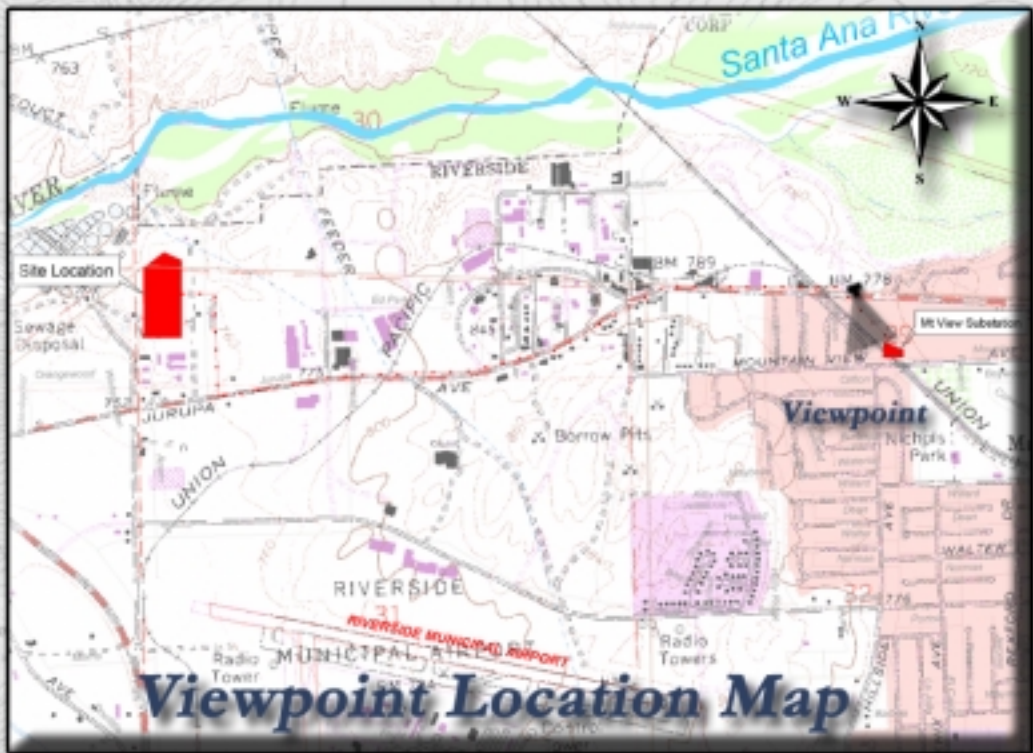
***KOP2***  
***(Figure 6.11-8a)***







**Notes**  
*Visual simulation shown is for demonstration purposes only. Final design may change pending review.*





### ***6.11.3.7 Key Observation Points***

Few nearby sensitive receptors (viewers) were identified during the site reconnaissance visit conducted in December 2003. This is because the Project is proposed to be located in an area zoned as Manufacturing Park according to the City's General Plan (City of Riverside, 1994).

Industrial land uses exist adjacent to all sides (every direction) of the Project site. To the west of and adjacent to the Project site, the land is zoned for manufacturing parkland uses. Further west, (approximately 3/4 mile away) the land is zoned for single-family residential land uses.

Views from the sensitive receptor locations are considered Key Observation Points (KOPs). The KOPs described below are the “before” views of the Project site. Figure 6.11-1 shows the locations where the two KOP photos were taken and the direction that the camera was focused for each photo.

- ♦ KOP 1 (Figure 6.11-7a) is a view of the Project site from approximately 0.25 mile east of the site, near the Payton Ave / Jurupa Ave intersection (east edge). This photo was taken on the south side of Jurupa Ave. The Maaco auto repair shop is located on Payton Ave. The KOP represents the view seen by motorists traveling Jurupa Ave.
- ♦ KOP 2 (Figure 6.11-8a) is a view of the double-circuit, 69kV transmission line looking southeast from the north side of Jurupa Ave. As shown, this view from the residences is partially screened by the tall hedge that serves to protect adjacent homes from vehicle headlight glare on Jurupa Ave. This view is representative of what is seen by both motorists and residences in the area of the proposed transmission line.
- ♦ KOP 3 (Figure 6.11.9a) is a view of the double-circuit, 69kV transmission line looking southwest from the north side of the Union Pacific railroad. This view is also representative of what is seen by residences in the area of the proposed transmission line. It is also representative of views near the existing Mountain View substation shown in the background and screened with vegetation.

## **6.11.4 Impacts**

### ***6.11.4.2 Environmental Checklist***

Table 6.11-1 provides the CEQA Checklist questions that are used in this SPPE Application to assess the significance of potential impacts.

**Table 6.11-1 CEQA Environmental Checklist - Aesthetics**

Environmental Checklist	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Aesthetics—Would the Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X	

#### ***6.11.4.3 Discussion of Impacts***

The impact assessment considers the criteria presented in Table 6.11-1. A discussion of the expected impacts on visual resources from Project implementation is provided below.

##### **Scenic Vistas**

One scenic vista of high visual quality was identified within the viewshed (area of potential visual effect) during the site reconnaissance of the proposed RERC Project. This vista includes the Santa Ana River corridor.

The Project would comply with goals set forth in the 2003 Riverside County General Plan. The Jurupa Area Land Use Plan (a project applicable portion of the General Plan) goals come as close as practicable to protecting views both to and from the river corridor. The goals and their applicability to the Project include:

The JURAP 7.2 goal requires that development, where allowable, to be set back an appropriate distance from the top of bluffs, in order to protect the natural and recreational values of the river and to avoid public responsibility for property damage that could result from soil erosion or future floods. The Project's generation facility would be located quite some distance from any bluff top and therefore would not intrude into the scenic or recreational values found along the Santa Ana River Corridor.

The JURAP 7.3 goal encourages future development that borders the Policy Area to design for common access and views to and from the Santa Ana River. The Project's generation facility would not block any common access already provided by both the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (a Riverside County Class I Bicycle Trail) or the multi-use trail located upon the northern bank of the Santa Ana River. Additionally, no viewers would have to look through the generation facility to see views

of the Santa Ana River. Views from the Santa Ana River are generally provided by the Juan Batista trail. Views from this portion of trail are restricted and do not include the generation site, because the local topography quickly climbs above the trail and forms a bench that restricts outward views.

The JURAP 7.13 goal discourages utility lines within the river corridor. If approved, lines shall be placed underground where feasible and shall be located in a manner to harmonize with the natural environment and amenity of the river. The Project's transmission line route would not occur within the Santa Ana River corridor. Therefore, the natural environment and amenity of the river would not be compromised from the construction of the proposed transmission line.

The Project would thus not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista.

### **Scenic Resources and Routes**

As indicated in the discussion of LORS above, there are no state scenic highways within the Project viewshed. The Project would thus not have a substantial adverse effect on scenic resources and routes.

### **Visual Character/Quality of Project Site and Vicinity**

The RERC Project would not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the Project viewshed, Project site, or its surroundings. Project implementation would not change the existing vividness, intactness and unity of the Project site and vicinity. This is because the Project would be developed in an industrial setting adjacent to other industrial development.

In addition, the City of Riverside General Plan of 1994 and Zoning Ordinance indicate that industrial development is planned on the vacant parcels located to the east of the Project site.

The RERC Project will include an 80-foot-high exhaust stack, a 43-foot-high combustion turbine generator (CTG), a 40-foot-high cooling tower and 60-foot-high transmission line poles. A 10-foot-high non-reflective chain-link fence, topped with one foot of barbed wire would surround the Project.

As depicted in the photo-simulation from KOP 1 (Figure 6.11-7a), showing the currently undeveloped parcels of land between the viewer and Project site, the Project would be visible from this viewpoint. Although visible, it would not significantly degrade the view or visual quality of the area, nor would it change the vividness, intactness, or unity ratings of the current view. Views of the Project would not be out of character with the existing view.

As shown in KOP 2 (Figure 6.11-8a), the transmission line portion of the Project is visible along Jurupa Ave. The upgraded transmission line is the tallest, most prominent new feature within this view, and the existing 50-foot-tall sub-transmission poles are the most prominent existing feature. The addition of Project features to this view would not significantly degrade the view or visual quality of the area, nor would it change the vividness, intactness, or unity ratings of the current view.

KOP 3 (Figure 6.11.9a) illustrates the change in view that the residences along Shepherd St would see if the transmission line portion of the Project were built. The existing views from their front or back yards includes views of the Mountain View substation and other existing transmission, sub-transmission and distribution lines in the area. The addition of new transmission line would not be out of character with the existing view.

Temporary visual disturbances would occur along the proposed transmission line alignment; however, construction activities would be short-term. Construction of this Project linear facility is not expected to require the removal of ornamental trees or shrubs. However, after the linear facilities are installed, the area disturbed from construction activities would be returned to its pre-construction condition, minimizing the impact on the visual landscape.

Each combustion turbine will have a pre-engineered and prefabricated cooling tower. The cooling towers will be located on steel frames above each chiller. The total height of each cooling tower, including the chillers, is 43 feet. However, the height of the actual cooling towers is 20 feet.

Because of the: (1) industrial nature of the area in which the proposed plant would be constructed; (2) relatively few sensitive receptors that would have views of the proposed plant; (3) existing large structures in the vicinity of the plant that partially obstruct views of the plant; potential visual impacts due to the proposed RERC plant would be less than significant.

The plant would be largely screened from KOP 2 viewers by intervening industrial and commercial facilities. Where visible to viewers, the Project would present a subordinate level of contrast in the context of an already developed industrial setting of low visual quality. No significant impacts from the RERC plant are anticipated.

There would be occasional visible vapor plumes emitted by the Project. Plumes emitted from the stack and/or cooling tower would not be present in warm weather. Plumes tend to form in the winter months, at night, and during early morning hours when the temperatures are very low and humidity is relatively high. If fog is present, plumes will not be discernible. Because of the measures RERC would implement to reduce lighting at the plant, nighttime plumes that are created will not be illuminated at night and, therefore, will not be highly visible during nighttime hours.

Because of the industrial character of the area and because plumes are emitted from other sources in the vicinity (see Figure 6.11-4a), local sensitive receptors are likely accustomed to seeing them. Therefore, the presence of plumes that would occur occasionally at the proposed RERC plant would not result in a significant impact on the visual character of the area. Plumes occasionally emitted from the proposed plant would not significantly detract from views of the area.

The proposed RERC plant would create a new source of light at the Project site from the installation of Project facility lighting. Levels of daytime glare at the Project site are not expected to increase noticeably from existing glare. To minimize Project facility lighting being visible offsite, RPU has committed to installing lights that are shielded and directed downward along the walkways. In addition, it has committed to install switches on the Project's taller facilities so that they will only be illuminated when needed. Due to the

industrial character of the Project vicinity, the lack of sensitive receptors adjacent to the Project site, and RPU's commitment to minimize light emissions offsite, the Project would not create a new substantial source of light and would thus result in a less-than-significant impact on visual resources.

#### **6.11.4.4 Cumulative Impacts**

No significant cumulative visual impacts due to the Project are anticipated. The proposed RERC plant and proposed transmission line would not result in a significant contribution to cumulative impacts on the landscape character of the Project vicinity. This is because the proposed plant would be sited east of and adjacent to existing industrial development (City of Riverside wastewater treatment facility, Santa Ana River aerial crossings of aqueduct pipelines, the Union Pacific railroad and the City of Riverside municipal airport).

As discussed above and in Section 6.2, Land Use, the land adjacent to and west of the Project site is designated and zoned for Manufacturing Park and Single-Family Residential Development according to the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance of 1994.

Plumes from the proposed Project would likely occur at the same time as the plumes that are emitted from the other plume sources in the Project vicinity. Existing plume sources are shown on Figure 6.11-4a. This is because plumes form only under certain climatic conditions that are conducive to plume formation (i.e., low temperatures and high humidity). The overall frequency of visually dominant plumes seen within the viewshed is not expected to increase from what is currently seen; however, the number of plumes emitted in the viewshed would increase with implementation of the proposed Project. The number of viewers exposed to occasional visually dominant plumes is not expected to increase significantly. Thus, the overall landscape character of the affected environment is expected to remain essentially unchanged.

#### **6.11.5 Mitigation**

Because no significant impacts have been identified, no mitigation is necessary.

#### **6.11.6 Agency Contacts**

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Sacramento, CA 95814

#### **6.11.7 References**

City of Riverside. 1998. *The City of Riverside General Plan 2035*. Adopted September 15.

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